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BOOK REVIEWS.

BRANCH OF ABINGDON. Being a Partial Account of the Ancestry of Christopher Branch of "Arrowhattocks" and "Kingsland," in Henrico county, and the Founder of the Branch Family in Virginia. By James Branch Cabell. "Volentem prœlia me loqui Victas et urbis increpuit lyra." Edition of 100. Printed by Wm. Ellis Jones' Sons, Inc., Richmond, Va. [1911], pp. 126, with ten illustrations.

James Branch Cabell, the well-known writer of fiction, occasionally turns to the soberer paths of antiquity and family history. Several years ago he published "Branchiana," a carefully studied account of his maternal ancestors. The Branch family descended from Christopher Branch who settled in Virginia early in the seventeenth century. In this first work he made various conjectures as to the English ancestry of Christopher Branch, (which, it may be added, have turned out to be incorrect).

The noted genealogist, J. Henry Lea, fortunately stumbled upon an English chancery suit in which Christopher Branch, the emigrant, endeavored to recover certain property in Abingdon, Berkshire. Mr. Lea followed the clue and was enabled to establish the line of ancestry for several generations. This instance shows what a vast and fertile field for American genealogists the English Chancery records are.

Last summer Mr. Cabell visited England, and his personal investigations at Abingdon, and in various record and probate offices, have borne good fruit. He has been able, from wills, registers, &c., to elaborate Mr. Lea's pedigree, and to add the ancestral lines of various other English families from whom the Branches descend. The most important of these is Bostock, through whom a royal descent is shown.

The family of Branch was prominent and prosperous at Abingdon from about the year 1500. They were mayors and burgesses, but probably their prominence in the town is best shown by the fact that two of them, Richard and William, were masters of the Fraternity of the Holy Cross. Mr. Cabell gives many interesting details in regard to this old Guild. He is also able to go beyond the bare details of genealogy and to present numerous incidents in the lives of the Branches, their relations and friends.

This handsome volume is well illustrated with views of places in and about Abingdon, and with a *fac-simile* of a page of the cartulary of the Fraternity of the Holy Cross. Foremost of all, from the view-point of scientific genealogy, is that the account of the Branch family is proved throughout by record evidence.

Mr. Cabell's book will be of great interest to all of the almost innumerable descendants of Christopher Branch and to collectors of Virginia genealogy. The edition is so small that it will soon become a very rare book. It is presumed that copies may be obtained through the printers.

THE JOURNAL OF JULIA LE GRAND, New Orleans, 1862-1863. Edited by Kate Mason Rowland and Mrs. Morris L. Croxall. Richmond, Va., Everett Waddey Company. 1911. pp. 318, with portraits.

A diary not kept with the view to publication, and especially the diary of a woman of social standing and cultivation, who lived in New Orleans during the years 1862-1863, must be of great interest. The journal of Julia Le Grand, afterwards Mrs. Waitz, does not disappoint expectations. It begins on December 1, 1861, just before the capture of New Orleans by the Federal forces, and one of the most striking things in it is the way it shows the indignation of the brave women of the city at the surrender. It is impossible here to go into the innumerable details, of deep interest, of the life of the people who were unable to leave New Orleans, and whose hearts were so intensely with their husbands, relatives and sweethearts who were in the Confederate army. The difficulty of communicating with their friends added greatly to the sufferings of the imprisoned people.

The editors have given all needed information in a preface and notes, and have made this fragment of a diary (recovered by accident) a valuable and deeply interesting addition to our war literature.

SOME EMIGRANTS TO VIRGINIA. Memoranda in Regard to Several Hundred Emigrants to Virginia During the Colonial Period whose Parentage is Shown or Former Residence Indicated by Authentic Records. Compiled by W. G. Stanard. Edition of 300 copies. Wm. Ellis Jones' Sons, Inc., Printers, 1911. For sale by the Bell Book and Stationery Company, Richmond, Va. pp. 79.

CORRECTIONS.—The following should be corrected in this number of the Magazine: Page 26, line 8 from bottom, for "Nathen" read "Mathew"; page 39, note, line 3 from bottom, for "a" read "an"; page 74, line 17, for "was" read "were"; page 75, line 2, under MICHAEL SPARKE, for "withcut" read "without"; page 80, for "English Records in Virginia" read "English Records Relating to Virginia"; page 100, line 18, for "Hopkins" read "Hipkins"; same page for "Fountaine" read "Fontaine"; same page, line 21, for "Pauline" read "Paulin."